



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 137943  
**Inspection date** 16 January 2006  
**Inspector** Denise Rosemary Olsson-Hildick

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** Childminding

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1996 and lives with her husband in Morden, Surrey, near local shops, parks, schools and bus routes. Her adult children no longer live at home. Children have access to the entire home though are prevented from going upstairs. There is an enclosed garden at the back of the property. There are no pets in the household.

The childminder is registered to care for four children and currently looks after one child under eight years. She walks and drives to schools to take and collect children and attends local playgroups, support and activity groups on a regular basis.

Children who have a special need or speak English as an additional language are welcomed and supported. The childminder is not a member of the local branch of the National Childminding Association. She is a qualified Nursery Nurse.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, pleasant environment. Flowers, photographs and pictures help to create a welcoming atmosphere. Children are therefore relaxed and at ease.

Children's personal needs are promptly attended to. Hands are carefully washed with soap and dried with a towel. The childminder presents as a good role model and washes her own hands before preparing a snack. Nappies are placed in a nappy sack and disposed of in a covered bin. These precautions ensure children learn good hygiene routines from a young age.

Care is taken to ensure children sleep where they are most comfortable. For example, they may rest or sleep on the settee or in a lay-back buggy. These arrangements are agreed with parents and therefore children's individual sleeping patterns are carefully followed.

Practical care is taken to ensure health needs are met. Medication is stored out of sight and reach of children. The first aid box only contains those materials currently recommended and is checked regularly. In the event of children becoming ill, the childminder phones the parent. Until their arrival children are kept warm, drinks and Calpol are given and children allowed to rest or sleep. These arrangements ensure children's health needs are properly met.

Children's need for exercise and fresh air is provided for by walking to playgroup, to or from school, playing in the playground or garden, going on outings to local shops, feeding the ducks, sweeping up the leaves or picking up the apples from the tree in autumn. Children are also taken swimming or to play sports. As a consequence children enjoy being in the fresh air and benefit from regular exercise.

Arrangements for meals and snacks are good. Generally parents provide main meals and the childminder supplements these with fresh vegetables. She also provides breakfast, snacks and light meals. Foods which are excluded or limited include nuts, sweets and Coca-Cola. This helps children understand the value of eating a healthy, balanced diet.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

The home is generally safe. This includes stair gates to the stairs and living room, cleaning materials and toiletries stored out of reach and a secure garden and front

door. The bathroom door can be opened from the outside. There is a fire blanket in the kitchen and an evacuation plan is in place. There is only one smoke alarm on the landing. The other, installed too near the oven in the kitchen, is disconnected and this effects an early warning in case of fire. Ground rules relating to safety are in place. For example, if children stand on chair seats they are promptly asked to sit down in case they slip through the back of the chair. When children are taken out they sit in a buggy, have their hand held or wear reins. Road safety is taught. Car seats conform to British Safety Standards and seat belts are always worn. Good precautions and explanations about safety matters ensures children understand and accept boundaries and play in a safe environment.

The childminder is aware of her responsibilities relating to child protection and most procedures are in place to protect children from harm.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and relaxed, enjoy their play and communicate often with the childminder. For example, conversations about grandparents, ice-skating, flowers, wheelbarrows, snails, foxes, sweeping up leaves and wearing gloves are exchanged. Play activities are varied and may include drawing with coloured pencils, playing in a tent with dolls and lacing cards. Explanations are given about why white pencils work, but can't be seen on white paper. If a game of dominoes is played, comments are made about hot and cold, big and small, noisy and quiet. Children who like to do so, help to count carrots into the bag in the shop. Numerous cuddles take place. Eye contact and smiles are frequent and warm. The childminder talks about children with affection and is aware of and responsive to individual needs, temperaments, interests and abilities.

Children are well settled into a daily routine that affords opportunities for play, rest, relaxation, meals and outings. A typical day involves breakfast, then visits to other childminders, to the park, shopping or family. After lunch children rest and have a story when they wake. Other children are collected from school, visit the playground on the way home then have a snack. After this, children play, watch TV or do homework until tea-time, before going home. Children are relaxed and at ease with the childminder and familiar in the home, with a routine that suits individual needs. Warm, stable and long-term relationships induce feelings of belonging, acceptance and security.

A good range of toys is available for children. They have access to equipment that include, for example, books, tent, puzzles, dominoes, sand and water tray, small world people, doctor's bag and dolls. Toys are regularly checked for safety, cleaned, discarded or repaired as necessary. These are easily accessible, stored in boxes on the floor, low cupboards or shelves and are clean and safe. Play materials are often changed round to provide stimulation and variety. Children therefore have access to activities and toys that involve and interest them.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Some materials portray a positive image of people from ethnic origins, including books, dolls, small world people and a puppet. There are no toys that portray people with a disability and this reduces children's ability to play with materials that reflect a positive image of this group. If parents express concern about boys dressing up or playing with dolls explanations are given about how beneficial it is for boys to play imaginatively. Girls who play football are encouraged as this activity promotes their interest in sport. This attitude promotes children's understanding of gender equality.

Records include details of children's ethnic origin and language. This supports individual needs.

The childminder welcomes children with special needs and knows who to ask for support and advice. This approach ensures all children are included.

Techniques for managing unacceptable behaviour are appropriate to children's age and understanding. For example, if young children try to climb onto high surfaces the childminder says 'no', and distracts them with other activities. Older children may be asked to sit quietly for a while. Smiles, praise and eye contact are often exchanged. Clear rules, consistently applied, help children to feel secure. Praise for effort, good manners and achievement help children to develop empathy for others and an understanding of right and wrong.

Relationships with parents are open, friendly, respectful, stable and of a long-standing nature. They are keen to retain her services and keep in touch for many years after leaving. Daily conversations and photographs help to give parents information about their children's day. Because children see how well and warmly their parents relate to the childminder, they too feel at home and welcome.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children enjoy playing in a well-organised home and garden, secure in a daily routine adapted to individual needs and able to choose activities of most interest to them. They benefit from the care provided by a skilled and reliable childminder.

Adequate care is taken to ensure most records and documents are up to date. For example, the registration certificate is on display and the attendance register is up to date. However, some details are omitted or are not maintained in a confidential manner in accident and medication records. The local child protection guide is not available. These arrangements reduce the other safeguards that protect children's health and welfare needs.

Written, signed contracts are in place and carefully reviewed on a regular basis. Children's personal details and needs are discussed with parents when the contract is agreed and recorded on child record forms. These procedures ensure children's

needs are accommodated in the manner parents wish.

Records relating to the child and family are stored safely and in a confidential manner. A list of emergency numbers is always kept by the phone, for ease of access. These administrative details ensure children's records are up to date, essential information is readily available and children's needs met.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection a recommendation was made to make the garage safe. A bolt is now in place and children's safety in the garden is properly maintained. A recommendation to increase play materials with positive images of disability is not yet met. This reduces children's capacity to widen their understanding of people with a disability.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

## **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

### **The quality and standards of the care**

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure recording and reporting systems relating to accidents, medication, emergency medical treatment and notifiable diseases include essential details and the local child protection guide is available
- ensure a smoke alarm in an appropriate location is installed on the ground floor

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)